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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3796  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5921  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3624  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3483  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4163  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4116

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001503

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/24/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A BERDIMUHAMEDOV SCORNE

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) SUMMARY. An Embassy contact conveyed a story from President Berdimuhamedov's life before he became a high-ranking government official. Apparently Berdimuhamedov tried to pressure a staff member at his dental clinic to enter into a relationship with him and when she scorned him, he fired her. Later, as Minister of Health, Berdimuhamedov used his position to further punish the woman, eventually causing her to lose her license and flee Turkmenistan for Russia. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) During a conversation with PAO, an Embassy contact relayed a story from his past. The contact had been in a close relationship with a female dentist, Tatiyana Tabatadze, who was forced to leave Turkmenistan under severe government pressure. Dr. Tabatadze was forced out of Turkmenistan essentially because she had once rebuffed the advances of then Minister of Health Berdimuhamedov.

EEO VIOLATION NUMBER ONE

13. (C) Dr. Tabatadze worked for Berdimuhamedov when he was the Director of the Central Dental Polyclinic in downtown Ashgabat (in the area of the Ak Altyn Hotel). According to Dr. Tabatadze, Berdimuhamedov had approached her with the hope of starting a romantic relationship. The single Dr. Tabatadze rebuffed his approaches and promptly was dismissed from her job at the clinic. (COMMENT: Given that these events transpired within the past twenty years, it can be inferred that Berdimuhamedov was married at the time he made these advances. END COMMENT.)

EEO VIOLATION NUMBER TWO

14. (C) A few years later, Berdimuhamedov was appointed as Minister of Health. Within a short time, the name of Dr. Tabatadze crossed his desk on a list of appointments to positions at the Medical University. Upon seeing the name, then Minister Berdimuhamedov began an inquiry into the life of his previous love interest. He not only did not grant her the new appointment, but also dismissed Dr. Tabatadze from her teaching job at the time. Berdimuhamedov then denied her all access to the health institutions of Turkmenistan. Within a short time, a former patient of Dr. Tabatadze filed

a criminal claim against her for malpractice, and Dr. Tabatadze was faced with potential imprisonment.

¶5. (C) In an effort to avoid further repression and potential imprisonment, Dr. Tabatadze fled Turkmenistan and moved to Saratov, Russia.

¶6. (C) COMMENT: In the Tabatadze affair, Berdimuhamedov displayed more vindictiveness than a typical jilted lover. Beyond simply firing her when he was Director of the Clinic and forgetting about the incident, he remembered the offense years later and abused his position as Minister of Health to make Dr. Tabatadze's life miserable. END COMMENT.  
CURRAN